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Begonias For War Time

By ALICE M. CLARK

Everywhere one hears the cry—"I can't get a gardener any more so I just had to give up my fowers." Here in Southern California, the problem is not nearly as bad as it seems. All that one needs is the right recipe for an easy garden which, when properly planted and reasonably watered, will take care of itself and furnish a wealth of bloom thru-out the year.

This sounds like "something out of the blue," but on the north side of the home of Mrs. Merrell H. Jordan, at 3211 Freeman Street, is just such a garden, whose owner, in the midst of our blustery season, is able to look out on flowers thru her lovely arched window. The planting was made two years ago. It has survived a period when its owners were out of town and now, when there are no gardeners to be had, it is looking as serene as ever and growing bigger and better by the minute.

I am talking about begonias. Given a careful selection of varieties, one can have fine bloom twelve months in the year without replacements. In Loma Portal, where the northern exposures are not due north, receiving a good share of morning sun, the situation is perfect in the winter. The same spot, in summer, is really very sunny for more than half the day but the begonias can and do "take it" without any protection.

There is one absolute essential to the success of such a permanent planting and that is the preparation of the soil. It must have excellent drainage; be coarse and loamy and have an acid reaction. If you do the digging yourself, stir a few feet at a time and go down deep enough to remove all clay or hard pan, stones or broken tile which is the usual plum pudding most contractors leave next to the house. Tile or bits of brick, without traces of lime or cement, will make good drainage in the bottom but don't try to use the clay soil in this particular bed. Enriched with humus, in your victory garden, this removed soil will serve you well. In its place, get some light top soil and leaf mold and well-rotted dairy fertilizer or bone or cotton-seed meal. The oak-leaf mold, or that of manzanita comes un-sifted now, but if you put some sifted mold around the young plants and build up the compost rather high on the bed, it will be broken down just right when the plants are large enough to need it.

Peat used to be recommended and still is good if you can get the imported kind but there is another product on the market, the pulverized bark of the redwood tree, that serves the same purpose. Though it also has an acid reaction, it has some other virtues that are especially valuable. Stirred into the soil, it serves to lighten it and retain the moisture and yet it will not cause rot if over-wet as it allows the water to drain thru. Used on top of the ground, it permits the water to penetrate, but retards evaporation so we need not water so much in the summer. In addition, as a mulch, it discourages pests of many kinds. This material, sold under the name of Sani-Soil, has no food value but is a short cut in begonia care.

Be sure to allow a wide bed for your plants. Most of them are fast growers, doubling their size in a year. Some do even better. Four or five feet makes a nice width with room for an edging. Plant at least a foot or eighteen inches from the foundation. If you must have a quick showing, get year-old plants in the spring but not any older, as they may be pot bound. The small plants will adjust themselves to the new environment more readily.

Now begins the pleasure of selecting your favorites. It is always advisable to plant at least three of a kind together and repeat the grouping across the border to get a good effect and to scatter the blooming season. It would be well to try a few more varieties than you really need as some may be better adapted to the situations than others. At the end of a year's experience, you can retain the ones that prove the most to your liking, though, like the small boy in a candy store, you will find an embarrassment of riches from which to choose.

Suppose we start with the corners or places where you want tall, thick growth. For forty years the tree forms of fibrous begonias have been planted here with great success. Some of these are the Rubra, (now called Coccinea,) type, with leaves like pairs of angel wings on tall, bamboo-like canes; some are the Corraline de Lucernes with branching stems, bigger and longer leaves, sometimes spotted, but all with beautiful clusters of pendant blooms from deep red, to pink

and white. These flower all year but are at their best in our moderate summers. These types have a tendency to lose their leaves in the winter.

I have always wanted to see that Fred Scripps used more often. It would be fun to grow it just because it originated in the garden of one of our own Floral Association members, but it is also outstanding on its own merits. It has a fine, bushy habit that makes it excellent in a corner. The leaves, full-grown, are about a foot wide. They are a soft, light green, with red veins and a rich red facing, hairy all over. In addition they are varied in shape. Some are cut like a maple leaf, some not at all; some have the thumb and fingers of a glove, some only two lobes but almost all are sure to have the curious little tuft of leaves popping up from the center, as a reliable means of identification. This plant is specially nice to place near the summer-blooming red Corralines as it starts to flower in the spring and carries its large distinctive bracts of small white flowers over a long period.

There is another husky grower called Acutangularis, that blooms at the same time or earlier, but not as long, with large pannicles of flowers that look like pearls. It has a very large leaf, interesting for its soft, velvetty texture and a peculiar square brown stem. All of these plants need some staking but most have an upright tendency. One of the joys of the winter begonia garden, a "must-have," is Mrs. Wallow. It has a long, deep-green leaf, with a wavy edge giving great decorative value. Tall and bushy, it carries huge pannicles of waxy, shell-pink bloom, which blend with the dark-red stems to convey the color tone of raspberry sherbet.

One of the effects I look forward to seeing is a planting of Nitida, variety of Odorata Alba, beneath a dining room window. The light, shining green foliage, shaped somewhat like a poplar leaf, is covered with plumes of small white flowers as dainty as a bride, giving forth a soft fragrance, as its name indicates. It is rather dormant in the winter so it would be well to have in the foreground that hardy plant, formerly known as Digswelliana, but now identified as Lady Waterloo (much easier for most

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From Honolulu

Dear Friend Jerabek:

Your newsy letter received, and am interested in your new arboretum project, and hope that I can make a contribution to it through material I will send you from time to time. Shall continue sending duplicates, so you can have one for your collection and one for germinating purposes.

Enterolobium cyclocarpum and Sesbania grandiflora will make good additions to your plantings. The Earpod Tree does well in Los Angeles, so you will have no trouble with it. But be sure and give it plenty of room, because it is a wide-spreading tree. The Sesban Tree is of upright growth, 15 to 20 feet high, and seems to do better in a sheltered location. Those here in open places, where the trade winds hit them, have a bedraggled look, while those that are sheltered from the wind look much nicer. They bloom during the winter months—for 3 or 4 months —and are covered with seedpods the year 'round.

Am familiar with quite a few of the trees mentioned in your letter that you have already moved into your new garden, but some of them are strangers to me, such as Brachychiton Bidwilli, Harpephyllum caffrum, Sorbus aucuparia and some of the Eucalypts.

I appreciated the stamps you sent because they are of the new series, that has not reached this postoffice, but I don't want to send any more. Collecting and sending the seeds gives me as much pleasure as it does you, and the expense connected with it is not worth considering.

Now to look at the floral picture during the past three months.

Soon after sending my last letter, the Yellow Poinciana (Peltophorum inerme) burst out in bloom. These are large trees, though not with spreading branches, and give a dense shade. They have been covered with large panicles of rusty-colored buds for months, and expected something especially attractive when they finally opened, but the flowers proved to be a rusty yellow and not a proper covering for such nice appearing trees. Didn't know it at the time, but the showy feature was to come at a later date. About a month after the blooming season began, the seed pods began to form, and these supply the show. They are winged pods, about 3 by 1 in., and cover the tops of the trees. When first formed they are blood red and for a short time rival the Royal Poincianas, but the sun's rays soon darken them and they are now dark red. By winter they will be nearly black.

June 20 was a noteworthy day—that's the day I located a Cashew Tree (Anacardium occidentale). Had been on the lookout for one for several months, and had about given up hope, when I came across one unexpectedly in one of the residence sections, and recognized it by its peculiar fruit, with which it was covered. The fleshy part looks samething like a pear, is about 2 in. long and bright yellow when ripe. At the end is attached a kidney-shaped nut in a bony shell, about 1 in. long. This particular "tree" is a straggly shrub about 8 ft. high, and at that time had fruit in all stages of development, the nut reaches full size before the rest of the fruit starts to fill out, then the nut looks small in comparison.

About the middle of July the Kassod Trees (Cassia siamed) opened up their blooming season. These are tall trees and when in bloom each branch terminates in a 12- to 18-in. panicle of lemon yellow flowers. The trees are so tall, though, that part of the effect it lost. They are like the Queen Flower Tree, Indio (Laegerstroemia Flos-Reginae). There is a large specimen in the Foster Gardens, that has been in bloom all summer, but you have to get a block away to see its canopy of flowers.

Samanea saman (the Monkey-pod), besides being a perfect shade tree, has a long flowering season. Since May the trees have been covered with their bunches of rosy stamens, and the end of their season is still a long way off, as when I came here last October 20, those were the principal trees in bloom, and their display lasted until about December 1. (I was in error in stating previously that these trees had two blooming periods.)

There are two large Baobab Trees (Adansonia digitata), and many small ones in the city. The large ones have

fruit hanging on them most of the year—hanging on strings like the fruit of the Sausage Tree. They are hard to catch in bloom, as they seem to have a short season, but a little over a month ago found some flowers on the large tree in the Queen's Hospital grounds. The trunk of this tree is in the form of a pyramid, and the outer covering is not like the bark of most trees, but is more like an elephant's hide. Near the ground it is about 10 ft. in diameter, 10 ft. above the ground it is about 3 ft., and at 20 ft. above it is about 1 ft. Most of its leaves fall in winter, and then it presents an odd appearance. The flowers are white, nearly a foot across, and the bunch of stamens, about the size of a baseball, is mounted on a pedestal about 2 in. above the petals. The petals soon wilt and curl back along the stem, but the stamens stay fresh-looking for several days, and are attractive among the dark green foliage.

The Sausage Tree, which started flowering in February, are still at it. The flowers are in clusters of from 6 to 8, on the end of a string 3 to 6 ft. long, and look like a fixture. Only one of a group seems to open at a time, stays open for a night or a little longer, and then drops off, then another opens. The ground underneath those trees is always covered with the dark red blossoms. Am enclosing a snapshot of a flower stem, in case you haven't seen these trees in bloom.

Went to Wahiawa, 22 miles northwest of here, last Sunday, and found some trees that are not to be seen in Honolulu. One was Cecropia palmata, which is illustrated in Bailey. One of the trees was in bloom, and it has most unusual flowers. The bud is about the size of a banana, and when the calyx turns pink it splits and falls off, exposing a bunch of cream-colored sticks, 6 to 8 in number, about as thick as a pencil and from 4 to 6 in. long. It looks like a bunch of pipe-cleaners. Pollen grains are scattered over the surface of these sticks, and according to Bailey the pistillate flowers are on there also, but didn't notice them.

Dillenia indica was another tree noted there. It was covered with fruit at the time, and these are about the

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ROSE
PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. *Time to plant*:
   (a) Bare Rooted Stock—December through February.
   (b) Container Grown Stock—any month in the year.

2. *Exposure*—full sun preferred

3. *Soil Preparation*:
   (a) Mix one part of Barn Manure with 2 parts good top soil.
   (b) To this mixture add some commercial fertilizer.
   (c) Roses must have ample drainage. If necessary dig each hole 18 inches deep and fill in the bottom with small rocks or gravel. Cover with a layer of burlap then add soil mixture.

4. *How to plant*:
   (a) Bare Root Roses.
   Dig a hole of sufficient depth and width to accommodate the entire root system without crowding. Hold the plant down into the hole and fill in with the new soil. The top of the root system where it branches from the main stalk, should be buried about 3 inches below the surface of the ground. Firm the soil about the roots by flooding which will settle the dirt. Basin the plant and repeat the watering until the soil is thoroughly settled.
   (b) Container Grown.
   Remove the container by cutting the can. Prepare the hole and plant as mentioned above (4a) level with the soil.

5. *Feeding*:
   Roses are strong feeders. Apply around the bush every 4 or 5 weeks some commercial fertilizer. Work lightly into soil. Regular feeding will insure a good root system, abundance of splendid buds of good color and long stems. A strong healthy rose is less liable to insury from pest and disease.

6. *Watering*:
   Roses require thorough irrigation, and prefer the furrow, trench or basin method.

7. *Pruning*:
   Heavy pruning should be done in winter. A lighter pruning in summer about July. When picking roses always cut the stem of the flower to within 3 buds of the main stalk. Regardless of the length of the stem to be cut. This will insure long stemmed roses.

8. *Spraying*:
   Mildew, Rust and Black Spot should be corrected with a good fungicide. Aphis and Thrip can be controlled by repeated applications of a contact spray such as nicotine, rotenone, etc.
   Scale, Mealy bug, etc., require the use of an oil spray. Beetles, etc., are kept down by stomach poison.

PAUL KLEINSORGE

Memorial Redwood Grove

Honor to Founder of Arbor Day

The Save-the-Redwoods League in its annual report is directing attention to the announcement that a splendid Redwood Grove in northwestern California has been preserved in honor of J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day.

The Morton Memorial Redwood Grove, in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, has been established through gift of a fund by Mr. Sterling Morton, Mr. Mark Morton and Mrs. Jean Morton Cudahy, of Chicago, and Mrs. Caroline Morton, of New York. They are of the family of J. Sterling Morton (1832-1902). He was Secretary of Agriculture in the Cabinet of President Cleveland, from 1893 to 1897. Arbor Day originated and was first observed in Nebraska in 1872, at the time Mr. Morton was a member of the State Board of Agriculture there. The observance of Arbor Day has spread very rapidly, virtually all the States taking note of its importance as a tree-planting day and a time to stress forest conservation.

The Morton Memorial Grove is in

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COMPLICATIONS and COMMENT

Call this chitter, but not tattle—call it it gossip, call it prattle—
But whate'er may be its name, call it fun—
This garden game!

TREE FERN

Do you know an Austrialian Treefern whose b r o a d spreading fronds project far and wide from the top of its trunk? It is interesting to note the embryo fronds which grow out from the summit of this tree trunk. They emerge in the shape of the scroll of a violin, but within a few days unfold so silently and imperceptibly that the process of development into a full sized frond is difficult to observe unless daily attention is given to watching it. Of all the marvelous things in Nature, surely the unfolding of leaves and the opening of flowers is most wonderful—so calmly, so quietly is it done; truly a lesson to us in our duties and in many walks and circumstances of life!—V. M. S.

FROM FAIRCHILD

Whenever you hold a memorial service for Kate Sessions, do not forget to tell the friends who knew her better than I did, that the influence of her character and her love of plants must have left it mark upon this generation which is passing through terrible times.

Just the fact that she found a perfect maze of forms and led a life that was filled with high aesthetic excitement, because of her love for them, is enough to single her out for high honors.

For alas, how few there are today who can get away from the lures of great cities and the mechanical accomplishments of man and the social life of humans, long enough to surround themselves with the beauties of the world that existed long before man came upon this planet.

Had she lived, Kate Sessions, would have been pained as we who still live are pained, by the drift towards barbarism and the destruction of the things of aesthetic beauty.

The world is shrinking fast and the air is filled with planes and now the time is approaching, when unless we do something about it, the face of the planet will change *far more rapidly than it has before,* and the forests and beautiful scenery that depends upon trees and shrubs and other wild living things will be swept away forever.

That so much of inspiration came from so frail a thing as was Kate Sessions (for human life is a very frail thing) should make us careful to put her where she belongs, upon a pedestal of honor, where the coming generations may see her and know that such lives as hers are possible still today.

I may be wrong, but I believe that a gigantic struggle is now approaching between the forces that see only material human comforts and conveniences and want to build still greater *structures,* and those who see a world of infinite beauty that can only be experienced by surrounding oneself with *living natural* objects, such as trees and vines and shrubs and flowering plants.

Kate Sessions will always stand for this world of beauty—the beauty that is not man made. I wish I could be with you, when you pay honor to her memory.

Very sincerely,
DAVID FAIRCHILD.

Early Days of Botany

The exuberant and stimulating atmosphere of San Francisco in the gold days was a fighting background for the sturdy growth of the first Western scientific organization, as described by Dr. Robert C. Miller in a paper entitled "The California Academy of Sciences, and the Early History of Science in the West," which appears in the current issue of the California Historical Society Quarterly.

The Academy, of which Dr. Miller is Director, was founded in 1853 by seven men who "picked their way over the cobblestones of one of San Francisco's two newly paved streets" to an office where they formed a society for the promotion of science.

One of these seven men, Dr. Albert Kellogg, became a botanist of great activity and renown; another Dr. John B. Trask, became California's first state geologist; and Dr. Henry Gibbons took up meteorology and was the first person to preserve scientific records of temperature and rainfall in the State of California.

D. Andrew Randall became first president of the society and held that post until 1856 when he was shot "by a gambler named Joseph Hetherington, who was lynched five days later by the same Vigilance Committee that had disposed of the notorious Casey and Cora a short time before. It is recorded in the minutes of the Academy that the members attended in a group the funeral of their first president." Dr. Miller continues, "I cannot leave this incident without mentioning further that, on the day after Dr. Randall's funeral and the day before his murderer was hanged, the Academy held its regular weekly meeting, at which it is recorded in the Proceedings: 'Mr. A. F. Beardslee deposited for the Library, Michaux and Nuttall's *North American Sylva;* also a pamplet containing descriptions of new coniferous trees of California.' A three-year-old Academy that could thus calmly hold a scientific session between a murder and a hanging was surely destined to survive!" It did.

Th Academy prospered in the ensuing years, becoming a center of intense activity in scientific research and publication; and for many years was almost the only center of such activities in Western America.

FAITH

When flowers whose petals
Close at sunset, know
They will unfold at dawn
And jasmine true and cereus
Bloom in darkest night
Unafraid.

When seedlings nestling
Deep in the heart
Of mother earth
Await the call to life
Above the ground
Undismayed.

Should not mortals find
In gardens the faith of
Flowers?

—Byrd Carter.

Japanese Dwarf Trees in Pots Too

A couple of years ago in a magazine article I said that Balboa Park is one of the world's great illusions. Go from the rock and scrub of Powder House Canyon to the venerable Cypress and beautiful Eucalyptus on the Sixth Avenue side. Contrast the native area with the formal gardens and subtropical plantings. Every plant that is over four feet high has been planted and cultivated, cussed and loved:. I dare say ninety-five per cent of the visitors think that the city was awfully smart to establish a park among such lovely plantings in order to keep them from being cut down. Of course, they have it just backwards, but it justifies the statement about illusion. In one sense all the trees and shrubs up there are just potted plants—just plants in a big hardpan pot. Men have labored with a gad and a sledge and a pickaxe and black powder to hollow out the proper sized hole. It's sort of an excavated pot rather than a moulded pot—and none of them drain as well as the little fired numbers. But they imported some fertilizer, packed top-soil around on their backs in gunny sacks to fill up the holes and then put a plant in them.

Now, after about thirty years, some of our plants—a grove of Deodars particularly—are obviously pot-bound. But we don't dare blast for root expansion—if we could get the powder—because we'd blast the last lingering life out of the thirty-year-old irrigation system which is just one step removed from being a beautiful memory at the present time—and we can't get the pipe to replace that. There's a headache or two in the park business as well as in your business. W.A.P.

CIRIO STRANGE PLANT

A strange desert plant, the cirio, is found in only two places in the world—Lower California and Sonora, Mexico. Among its oddities are that it is not a tree, nor a shrub, has no true limbs, and no two plants are alike.

How to Plant In the Arid Southland

Gardeners new to Southern California have much to unlearn and a great deal to find out if they are to plant for keeps.

You will probably have two classes of plants to deal with, evergreen and deciduous. Evergreen ornamentals or fruit trees, such as citrus and avocados, are usually dug and shipped with a ball of earth wrapped in burlap. In handling these balled plants they should be lifted carefully from underneath so as not to loosen the earth. It is better not to try to handle them by the tops. If you do not intend to plant for a few days after receiving them, set them away out or direct sunlight and keep moist, but not wet.

For fear of breaking the ball when planting, it is better not to remove the burlap covering but place the ball in the hole as it is so that the surface of the ground is an inch or so higher than the top of the ball. Simply loosen the cord around the top of the ball and lay the burlap back, covering it with earth when filling the hole. It will soon rot. Firm the earth well around the plant and leave a shallow basin which should be filled with water to settle the earth.

It very often happens that the ball of earth surrounding the evergreen is of heavier texture than the earth in which it is planted. This calls for extra care in irrigating to make sure that water actually penetrates the ball itself and not simply drain away in the lighter soil around it. This is of the utmost importance, especially during the time the plant is becoming established and new roots are forming. No fertilizer of any kind should be placed in the hole or given the plant for a number of months; some growers wait a full year before fertilizing.

Bare-rooted deciduous trees and shrubs should have their roots protected at all times, never letting them dry out by exposure to sun or dry air. If not to be planted at once put them in the shade and either cover the roots with wet moss or else dig a shallow trench into which the roots should be placed and covered with moist earth. Too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the necessity of keeping the roots of deciduous nursery stock moist.

Quite a large hole should be dug for each deciduous shrub or tree when planting, placing them at the same depth they were in the nursery and spreading the roots out in a normal position by hand. In the case of budded trees, such as peaches, apples, etc., this will leave the visible bud unions from 2 to 4 inches above the ground surface. Fill the holes with good garden soil, firming it down well as the hole is being filled and settling with water when nearly full.

Be sure to trim the roots smoothly before planting, removing all cut, broken or badly bruised roots. It is usually best to trim back the tops of deciduous trees and shrubs, as roses, after planting in order to balance the loss of roots when the plants were dug. As with evergreen trees, do not place any fertilizer in the holes or apply any to the surface until the plants have begun to grow well and are able to use it.

In the event your plants come in cans do not attempt to remove the contents without cutting the sides, using a chisel or tin snips, preferably the latter, carefully bending back the tin sides or sections and removing the balls intact. Do not attempt this if the earth is very wet or very dry, wait until it is neither wet nor dry but simply slightly moist. Potted plants may be up-ended and tapped gently on the sides and bottom to release the earth balls and plants. Try to keep the balls from breaking in order that the roots may not be exposed or disturbed.

After trees or shrubs have been well planted, normal care as to irrigation and feeding (no fertilization necessary for a period of months to start with) should keep them in good condition. However, one important consideration should always be kept in mind, good drainage is necessary. Drainage of some kind is really vital for the best development of practically all plants, particularly those that are to become deep-rooted. Never irrigate so much or so frequently that the ground stays wet and soggy. E.H.S.

Climbs Walls

Consider Ficus minima that belongs to the Fig family. It is a dwarf variety of a much larger vine which produces a very poor unedible kind of fig and is altogether undesirable—so greedy and rampant that it is a nuisance as a house wall climber, forcing its way in between crevices and causing much trouble eventually. Its tropical relative is however, far more objectionable—a terrible monster of the jungle growth, strangling great trees with its mighty coils. But little Ficus minima is harmless and makes a very attractive pattern on a wall, to which it can attach itself without any help from stakes or twine; all that has to be done is to see that loose ends are cut off so that attachments made are less likely to be broken off by wind or careless animals or human beings; the foliage, too, should not be allowed to become too matted, for the pattern on wall is then lost—a little pruning now and then preserves these attractive designs on the wall surface.—V. M. S.

PETUNIAS

Sweet and fair,
Scenting the air
With a delicate perfume,
Gay and bright
In the dancing light
The dainty petunias bloom.

Lightly they rest,
Closely pressed,
On terrace and garden wall,
Bathed in the dews
Of rosy hues
The fairies have let fall.

Pink and blue, or
Violet hue, with
Orchid and rose and white
Blend with the green
Of leaves between
In harmony soft and light.

—Etta Florence Adair.

Paprika, formerly imported into the United States at the rate of $10,000,000 worth a year, was one of the first spices to be cut off by the war. It now is being cultivated in southern California.

FROM THE NOTEBOOK OF A MASTER GARDENER

SNAILS NOW

The formula for preparing snail poison has been published many times, but apparently snail control should always be a popular subject. The directions follow, and if faithfully carried out and the poison occasionally applied in the proper places, it will certainly effect a clean-up of these pests. Thoroughly mix together, dry, 1 pound of calcium arsenate and 16 pounds of coarse red bran. Then add enough water to make a crumbly but not wet mash. Scatter as finely as possible, avoiding lumps, around the places where snails are crawling and feeding. The mash should be spread in the evening, first wetting the premises down lightly to induce the snails to crawl. The scattered mash will remain effective for several days if a light sprinkling is given each evening. It is better to make repeated light applications of the poison every few days rather than heavy applications at longer intervals, besides being safer for other animals that might obtain access to it. If this treatment is persisted in your snail troubles will certainly be reduced to a minimum.

NARCISSUS

These bulbs are grown so easily that some of the high points in their culture are overlooked, with a following deterioration.

In the first place the embryo flower buds of next season's bloom commence to form at the end of the annual period of growth of the narcissus bulb. Therefore the care the growing plant receives after flowering (in the case of bulbs which are left in the soil), is of the utmost importance. Some gardeners practice cutting the tops from the plants soon after flowering and this practice, it is plain, will prevent the bulbs from developing to normal maturity. Others may allow the plants to dry out before their annual cycle of growth is completed. This is also a mistake. Overcrowding, such as would occur if the bulbs were left too long in the soil without being lifted, reduces the bloom considerably since this results in an insufficient supply of plant food reaching the individual bulb.

Given a reasonably fertile soil, no overcrowding and good care following the flowering period, your blooms should be regular and of good quality and return yearly for a generous period of time.

FUCHSIA

Fuchsia leaves very soon now will be more or less infested with thrips, an insect that scrapes or chafes the surface of leaves of various plants. The remedy is a tobacco spray of some sort, such as black leaf 40, or pyrethrum or rotenone or any combination of these materials. You can get a contact insecticide known as Pyrocide which contains pyrethrum, or Evergreen, also containing pyrethrum, or a material known as Red Arrow, containing both pyrethrum and rotenone. Any of the sprays indicated above, or others containing or composed of the same materials, will certainly kill thrips if properly applied.

Be sure to spray the undersides of the leaves as well as the upper. The damage, of course, has already been done on the old leaves but you can protect the new foliage as it appears by using one of these sprays. Be sure to spray more than once as the eggs of the insect are sometimes laid inside the leaf tissues and are not affected by the spray. After the young hatch and appear on the leaf surfaces, another spraying will get them easily. Thrips are very small, slender insects of various colors, usually yellow or black. They move very quickly and are not easy to see.

DANDELION CONTROL

Perhaps the simplest method where the area to be covered is not too large and there are not so many plants that the amount of work involved would be prohibitive, is to poison these weeds. Simply dip a slender sharp-pointed stick or iron rod into an open mouthed jar containing sulphuric acid, or nitric acid or even strong sodium arsenite and thrust into the top or crown of each dandelion. Enough poison will

adhere to the rod to poison the weeds, killing them to the roots. The use of a rather long prod will obviate the necessity of stooping, of course.

The chemicals named are poisonous and should not be allowed to come in contact with the skin.

Some gardeners have reported good success by simply injecting a few drops of gasoline or naphtha in the crown of dandelion plants using an oil can or similar container. An iron sulphate solution, 1½ pounds dissolved in 2 gallons of water, sprinkled over a weed infested lawn will often be very successful, not only with dandelions but in killing other lawn weeds as well. This material will burn the grass tops but not injure the roots and the grass will come back as good as new in a few days. The explanation why this material will kill weeds and not grass lies in the different habit of growth.

LAWN CLIPPINGS

If your lawn is mowed frequently and no appreciable or unsightly amount of lawn trimmings are visible on the surface after cutting when the carrier is not used, it is better to let the cuttings lie there and work their way down around the roots. They will form a much-needed mulch and finally become incorporated with the soil, adding to its humus content. If the grass is so long when cut that it lies in windrows or swaths, then a carrier should be used and the clippings gathered up, or the surplus be raked off. Bamboo rakes are ideal for this purpose. After all, the reason for growing a lawn must be considered and it must not be left unsightly after mowing. Nevertheless, decaying vegetable matter, as lawn clippings, are quite valuable around the grass roots. Not only do they give the roots much-needed shade but when they become incorporated with the soil, they aid the latter to retain moisture.

Sound does not affect the growth of vegetation. Then w h y — oh, why!—does the wife sound off . . . it being so ineffectual.

Begonias

By Alice M. Clark

(Continued from Page 2)

of us to remember). It has a mass of bright, crinkled leaves and flowers of red and white that are in constant bloom. The branches have the charming habit of growing out and bending a bit at the tips like a fountain of flowers. Usually about three feet high, it is a lower grower than Odorata Alba, which will go up to five feet or more. It is similar to Ingrami, incorrectly called Robusta, but far more decorative in habit and showy in bloom, tho both are hardy and good fillers.

Another very dependable grower, with leaves as dainty as a fern and showers of pink bloom all thru the year, to be trained tall or bushy, as one pleases, is Floribunda, better known as Multiflora Rosea. It will stand more sun which makes its flowers a brighter pink. A companion plant is very similar but has pendant blossoms of brilliant scarlet, hence the

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name, Fuchciaoides Coccinea. It has a short blooming season.

With the above plants as background, use groups of the hairy, large-leaved types to give masses of color all the time but particularly thru the cold season. There are many varieties, all resembling the old standard Haageana, with variations in color of leaf and bloom, but all free-flowering and dependable, growing more showy every year. Many of the best are San Diego hybrids but it is a good idea to visit a nursery and have the fun of selecting your own favorites without prejudice.

With the background and show-pieces selected, edge the plot with a border of the so-called bedding begonias. There is really no plant so adaptable and easy to grow. They live up to their name of semperflorens as they are in bloom most of the time except for a brief period when they should be cut back hard for a rest. There are two main types and many intermediates. The low growers are small-leaved, sometimes hairy, with a wide range of foliage tints, from red, thru bronze, to light green, with many combinations of flowers to match. The taller type, two feet or more has a succulent stem and bright shining green leaves. The blooms are more unusual, some tinted or bordered with color and some almost an orange shade.

Take a look at Mrs. Jordan's begonias and I am sure you will be convinced that they are the answer for those who want lasting beauty with the smallest expenditure of time and energy. Make your own combinations after you have seen them in full maturity; the range of hardy varieties is large. They will grow while you dig and hoe vegetables in the sunny back yard, to harvest vitamins for victory. But begonias, carrying on by themselves, will spread a feast for the eyes and give a lift to the spirit, (aren't you definitely weary of that word, "morale"?) of all who pass by.

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From Honolulu

(Continued from Page 3)

size of a coconut, but instead of the seed being covered by a husk, it has overlapping fleshy scales.

The shower trees are slowly fading out of the picture, but there are still a large number to be seen. One nice thing about most of the flowering trees here is that they don't all bloom at once, but seem to work in shifts. This has been most noticeable in the Golden Shower and Royal Poinciana, the most gorgeous of them all. Three months ago Wilder Ave. and other streets out toward the university were ablaze with Poincianas, and other streets were lined with Golden Showers in full bloom. For two weeks I went through that section every day, to take full advantage of the show, thinking it couldn't last long—but it really increased, for as one group of trees would pass its zenith and start on the decline, another group would open. I went through there occasionally after that, and it kept about the same for two months. Now, however, the end of the season is approaching, though there are individual cases of trees that look as if they just started in. There is the Royal Poinciana on South King St. that I pass every few days going to and from Waikiki, and that particular tree has been in bloom for three months, and still is a sight to behold. Most of them don't seem to last that long, though.

The Cordias that I mentioned in my last letter are still in bloom. They began about the middle of March and seem to have as many flowers now as when they began.

Your friend,
JOHN PRICE

MEMORIAL REDWOOD GROVE

(Continued from Page 3)

the Avenue of the Giants area, below Dyerville, Humboldt County—immediately west of the Redwood Highway, and north of the C. F. Krauss Redwood Grove. The gift to the State is through the Save-the-Redwoods League.

Members of the League are participating in contributing a fund to designate an addition to the grove, adjoining the Eel River, in honor of J. Sterling Morton as founder of Arbor Day.

Joy Morton, father of Mr. J. Sterling Morton, established and endowed the famous Morton Arboretum at Lisle, Illinois.

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